



7 TIPS FOR INCREASING THE SECURITY OF YOUR DOORS

ALCO

PRODUCTS COMPANY, INC.

YOUR FRONT DOOR IS YOUR FIRST LINE OF DEFENSE IN YOUR HOME

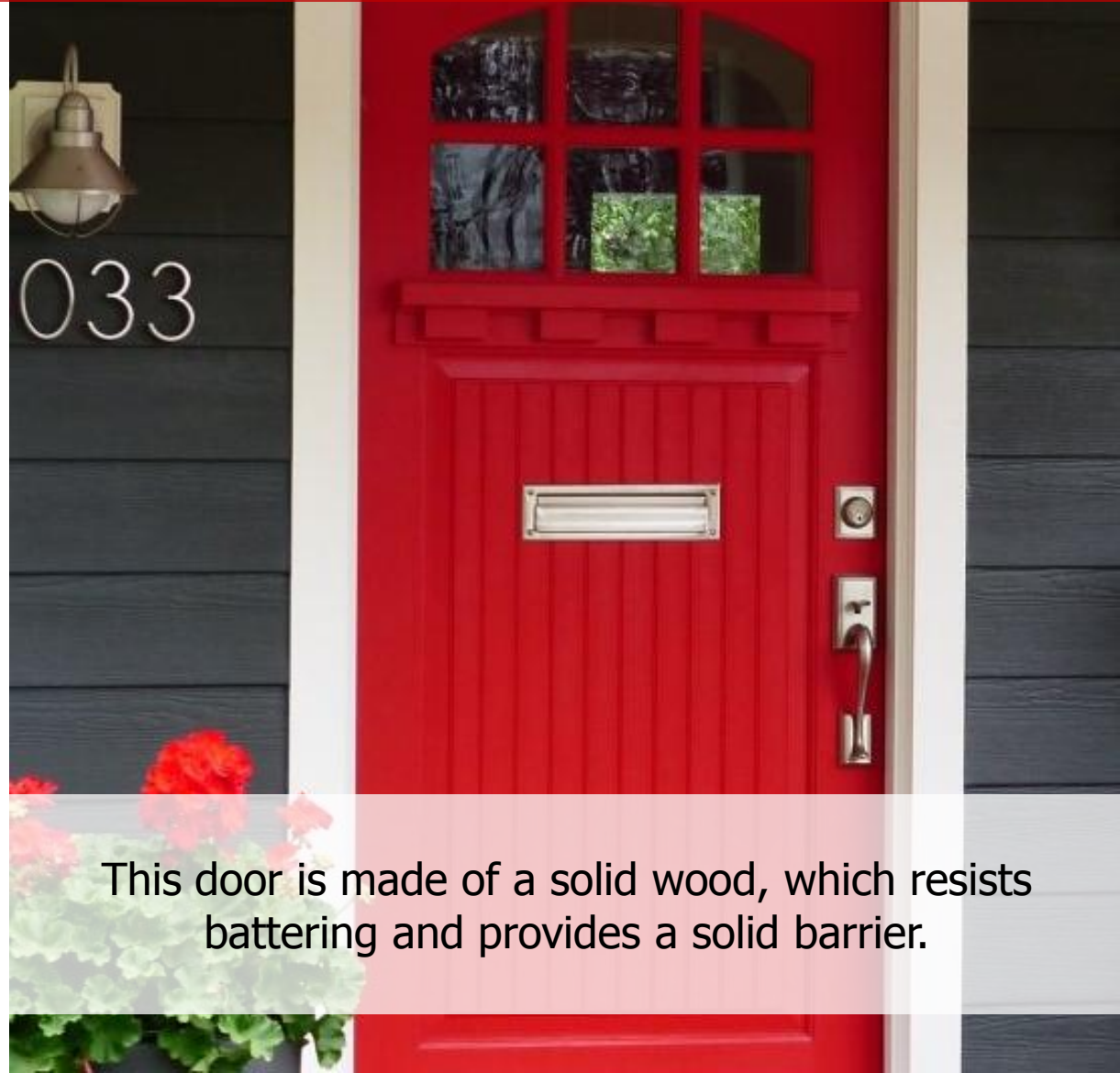
You can't turn on the news without hearing of a home invasion or burglary that's taken people's sense of safety and replaced it with fear and victimization.

There is nothing like the loss of security you feel when your home has been violated. That's why taking charge of your home's security is essential, and can be done by checking just a few things that most people miss.

REPLACE HOLLOW DOORS WITH SOLID DOORS

Solid doors are stronger, and more resistant to forceful break-ins. **Hollow doors are nothing more than a thin piece of wood laid over a hollow frame**, which means they're not strong enough to withstand a kick or ram.

Replacing your hollow door with a solid door will not only add to its strength, but may also increase its energy efficiency as well.



This door is made of a solid wood, which resists battering and provides a solid barrier.

INSTALL DEAD LOCKS & CHARLIE BARS



Both dead locks and charlie bars are inside-only measures - which means they're not accessible from outside. This adds a layer of protection to your home when you're inside.

Dead locks are a deadbolt that has no exterior key opening, so they cannot be picked from the outside. Charlie bars are poles or bars made of metal or wood that slide into the track of your sliding doors to create a physical barrier.

CHECK YOUR WINDOWS

A door's security can be undermined if the door has windowed panes or if your home's windows are within arm's reach of the doors. A burglar can break a window and reach through to manually open your door from the inside.

If you have glass panes in your door, replacing your door with a windowless version will increase its security immediately. If you have windows within arm's reach of your door, you can cover them with security grates or an unbreakable polycarbonate panel secured behind the glass on the inside.



If you have windows on either side of your door like this home, ensure they're reinforced with a polycarbonate panel to increase your security.

REPLACE AN INADEQUATE STRIKEPLATE



Your strike plate is the metal plate on the doorjamb, and if these aren't secure, neither is your door. These are easy and inexpensive to replace, but be sure to choose heavy-duty metal security strike plates that are secured by four long screws. The goal is for the strike plate to attach to the underlying stud, not just the door jamb.

SECURE EXPOSED HINGES

If you have exposed door hinges, you're at risk for burglars simply taking your door off the hinges and no locks will stop this. You can secure the hinges with non-removable hinge pins, and ensure that all the other screws are at least 3-inches long (to again, attach to the underlying stud.)



STRENGTHEN YOUR DOOR FRAME



You can strengthen your doorframe by ensuring that your door frames are secured to the walls with long screws to meet the underlying stud. This will help to prevent the frame itself from failing when met with brute force.

Most frames are not secured in this manner and are not resistant to kicks or batterings.

REKEY YOUR LOCK

If you're not the first person to live in your home, purchasing new locks is the first thing you should do. Many people hand out keys to neighbors, family, and so on, and oftentimes forget to collect those keys when they move out.

New locks are inexpensive at home improvement stores and come with complete instructions on how to install them.



WE CAN HELP YOU SECURE YOUR DOORS

If you're looking for additional security on your front door, swinging or sliding patio door, or french doors, give us a call. We can work with you to find a product that meets your exact security needs that will also add to the beauty of your home.

We'll be happy to come visit you for a Free Door Evaluation, where we will review your needs and give you information on what replacing your door will look like, as well as the benefits you can expect.

All you have to do is call us at 240-450-2545 and schedule your no-obligation evaluation!